GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4103
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000
PROXY WAR
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kashmiri militants and Pakistani terrorists stepped up their proxy war against India on the eve of USA`s President Bill Clinton visit to the country in order to internationalise the Kashmir issue; and

(b) if so, the strategy adopted by the Government to counter the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Chattisinghpura massacre on March 20, 2000 was part of a desperate attempt on the part of Pakistan and terrorists under its command and control, to seek to bring greater international focus on Jammu & Kashmir. This terrorist act was universally condemned and profiled Pakistan`s role in sponsoring cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India.

(b) Government have effectively and appropriately brought to the notice of international community, Pakistan`s support to cross-border to terrorism and continued attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India. The facts regarding Pakistan`s state sponsorship of terrorism has been brought before several international fora and have also been raised at high-level bilateral discussions with world leaders. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan state sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, and elsewhere in India, and the impact this has on the security of our country and the region. This greater awareness is being reflected in the international media coverage on Pakistan and in statements by official spokesmen of several governments.